



View from the Blackdown Hills

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Issue No 149 July 2017

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Hills stay blue as all three Tory MPs keep their seats

THE Blackdown Hills have stayed blue following last month's general election, with

all three of the area's Conservative MPs being returned to Westminster.

Neil Parish (Tiverton and Honiton constituency) representing the south and west of the Hills, Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane) the north and Marcus Fysh (Yeovil) the east, all retained their seats.

Neil Parish increased his share of the vote to more than 60 per cent but his majority dropped slightly to 19,801 from 20,156 in 2015.

Following his victory, Mr Parish said: "I would like to thank the people of Tiverton and Honiton for the support they have given me this evening.

"It makes you very humble. What I have learned through this election – and, yes, it is a handsome win – is there are issues here regarding education and the health service and they are things that we need to learn and to listen to."

Despite his win Neil Parish was somewhat downbeat, as his fellow Conservatives lost seats nationwide.

Mr Parish continued: "I think we probably will have to have a little look at how we came about our manifesto and what we put in it because that has to take some of the blame."

On the Tories' campaign, Mr Parish was even more critical, saying: "I think if I was writing a school report, I would say we could have done better. I think that's

probably an understatement.

"I also think perhaps when you're in government it's more difficult because in this county of Devon we control the government, we control the county and we control the districts; if there's anything out there that's bad it's down to the Conservatives, as far as the voters are concerned."

He added: "We as a party have a lot to learn following this election."

Labour saw its overall number of votes shoot up, cementing itself in second position in the constituency. Former Honiton town mayor Caroline Kolek, who also ran two years ago, saw her share of the vote increase from 12.7 per cent to 27.1 per cent, polling 8,835 more votes than in 2015.

Rebecca Pow, who was first elected to represent Taunton Deane in 2015, retained her seat with an increase share of the vote and a slightly increased majority from the last election.

Ms Pow polled 33,333 votes, with her nearest rival being the Lib Dems' Gideon Amos on 17,446. Martin Jevon (Labour) received 9,859 votes, with the UKIP and Green candidates out of the running on 1,434 and 1,151 respectively.

Following her election, Ms Pow posted on Facebook: "Honoured and humbled to have been re-elected as the Member of Parlia-

ment for Taunton Deane with an even larger majority than before.

"Thank you to all who voted and thank you also to those of you that helped on my campaign!"

Marcus Fysh strengthened the Conservatives' grip on South Somerset with a resounding victory.

On a day which had seen Conservative MPs come under attack from Labour and Lib Dem candidates, no one could get near to Mr Fysh as the Leave campaigner swept up the votes of former UKIP voters to win the Yeovil seat with a larger majority and share of the votes than in 2015.

Mr Fysh gained 32,369 votes and 54.5 percent of the total polled, 14,723 more than second place Lib Dem candidate Jo Roundell Greene, who ended her first foray into national politics with 17,646 votes (29.7 percent).

Labour candidate Ian Martin finished around 10,000 votes behind the Lib Dems, with the Green Party and independent candidate Katy Pritchard failing to make an impact.

Following his win, Mr Fysh said: "We had a great result here in South Somerset and I'd like to thank everyone who helped with our positive campaign.

"It is a great honour to have been supported by so many people.

"My focus will continue to be making sure our beautiful part of the country is well represented in Westminster and I am looking forward to working with our excellent team of Conservative councillors too on local issues.

"Thank you to everyone who voted for me and to everyone else for taking part."

Speaking afterwards, Lib Dem Mrs Roundell Greene didn't rule out running at the next general election.

She said: "We've done extremely well tonight and I'm really looking forward to coming back again.

"I think our country is in a

bit of a mess. They [the Conservatives] have based this election on Brexit. It hasn't worked and Mrs May has been weakened."

Tiverton and Honiton

Neil Parish
(Con) 35,471 *elected*
Caroline Kolek
(Labour) 15,670
Matthew Wilson
(Lib Dems) 4,639
Gill Westcott
(Green) 2,035
Cons Majority: 19,801
Turnout: 71.5 per cent

Taunton Deane

Rebecca Pow
(Con) 33,333 *elected*
Gideon Amos

(Lib Dems) 17,446
Martin Jevon
(Labour) 9,689
Alan Dimmick
(UKIP) 1,434
Clive Martin
(Green) 1,151
Cons Majority: 15,887
Turnout: 73.8 per cent

Yeovil

Marcus Fysh
(Con) 32,369 *elected*
Jo Roundell Greene
(Lib Dems) 17,646
Ian Martin
(Labour) 7,418
Robert Wood
(Green) 1,052
Katy Pritchard (Ind) 919
Cons Majority: 14,723
Turnout: 71.6 per cent

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Rebecca Pow



Marcus Fysh

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Kids become energy monitors

SCIENCE and technology learning at a primary school near Ilminster has been energised by the purchase of renewable-energy educational kits thanks to a £2,000 donation from the E.ON Energy Action Fund.

Staff and governors at Neroche Community Primary School have developed a forest-school area at its site in Broadway, used to educate pupils across each of its seven classes about the natural environment.

They were keen to add to this some equipment to help demonstrate to pupils how renewable sources of energy like the sun and wind can be harnessed to heat water and generate electricity.

Using the funding from E.ON, the school has now been able to buy a set of wind-turbine and solar thermal and photovoltaic educational kits.

As well as investigating how the number of turbine blades and their angle affects the amount of electricity generated, the pupils are also using the solar equipment to experiment with different light conditions.

Connel Boyle, headteacher at Neroche Community Primary School,

said: "Our children are really curious about energy, particularly electricity conservation.

"These superb educational tools we've purchased with £2,000 awarded by E.ON are helping us to understand energy production and this is adding an important element to our environmental forest-school curriculum.

"As a result, our children are becoming very efficient energy monitors."

Suzanne Doxey, community relations manager at E.ON, said: "With Neroche being a small school, the judges of the E.ON Energy Action Fund were impressed by Neroche's ambition in wanting to build on the foundations of its forest-school area and learn about renewable energy in such a hands-on way.

"All of E.ON's community projects are intended to provide the support that groups tell us they need.

"It's also heartening that this equipment and forest-school area more generally will benefit the wider community, as local pre-schools and nurseries make visits to the school to take advantage of its facilities.

"I'd like to think that the fully kitted-



YOUNGSTERS at Neroche Community Primary School thanked E.ON for the donation towards the wind turbines

out forest-school area will help inspire an audience of children aged two to four before they even start school."

Since 2013, the E.ON Energy Action Fund has given more than £108,000 to 65 community groups and charities in England, Scotland and Wales.

Celebrate National Meadows Day

WHY not help celebrate National Meadows Day with a guided walk exploring Bishopwood Meadows nature reserve?

You'll be able to discover and identify a wealth of meadow wildlife, including a good variety of wildflowers, insects and butterflies.

The walk is approximately two miles long with some steep slopes and uneven terrain.

The event takes place on Saturday, July 1st from 10:30am to 1pm, departing from Otterford Parish Hall.

Booking is essential - email info@blackdownhillsnatural.org or call 01823 681935.

Take a walk on Hense Moor

A WALK across Hense Moor Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), near Lupplitt, has been organised by the Blackdown Hills Rough Grazing Association.

Led by Dr David Allen and George Greenshields, the walk takes place on Wednesday, July 5th from Lupplitt Village Hall car park at 6pm.

You'll be able to see prime examples of springline mire, heathland and other habitats in mosaic, grazed by beef cattle through the Lupplitt Commoners Association.

Teas and coffees will be provided in the village hall after the walk.

Andy Caddick opens new nets at Honiton CC



SOMERSET CCC legend and former England international Andy Caddick was on hand to open the new practice nets at Honiton Cricket Club last month

'Good' OFSTED rating for Churchinford Pre-School

CHURCHINFORD Pre-School Committee and staff are celebrating a 'Good' grading from OFSTED inspectors after they were inspected on the May 8th.

The inspector concluded that: "All children acquire good skills to prepare them for their next stage in learning, including going to school.

"Toddlers and younger children have good opportunities to mix with older ones and confidently join in group activities.

"Overall, children are achieving or exceeding expectations at the time of their progress check when they are two years old.

"They continue to sustain this good level of achievement and by the time they go to school, they are independent and socially confident with good communication skills."

Pre-School manager Sharon Prangle said she was especially pleased following the inspection as it was her first whilst working at Churchinford Pre-School.

Her hard work was highlighted by the inspector who commented on the good support that is offered to staff to develop their knowledge to further improve learning opportunities for children.

Particular mention was made to the implementation into the curriculum of health and wellbeing, with use of exercise routines which help improve co-ordination and build body strength and the introduction to healthy eating by offering unusual fruits and vegetables at snack time.

The introduction of the exercise routines has been possible using the Les Mills 'Born To Move' programme which is specifically tailored to the preschool age group.

Churchinford Pre-School is the first in the area to offer this as part of the weekly routine after Sharon received training to offer the programme last year.

Churchinford Pre-School is based in the heart of the village, beside the village hall and opposite the village shop. Sharon Prangle is assisted by Andrea Gibbs.

Children are able to attend from the age of 18 months. The pre-school is open during term times, with a number of different sessions available between Monday and Thursday, from 9am to 3pm.

For more information please contact Sharon Prangle on 01823 601309 or email churchinfordpreschool@btconnect.com

Learn about trees, plants and spiders at Young Wood

HELP find and document the many different types of trees and flowering plants around Young Wood, near Staple Fitzpaine, on Wednesday, July 5th.

The 'Meet The Neighbours' event will see volunteers exploring the woods looking for signs of wildlife. These finds will be brought together in a series of 'collection shrines' created by artist Michael Fairfax celebrating woodland wildlife.

This is one of a series of woodland safaris run by Neroche Woodlanders as part of 'Meet The Neighbours' - a year long project supported by Heritage Lottery Fund, encouraging people to identify Young Wood's wildlife. The event runs from 10am to 3pm.

Later, on July 19th, you can join Vernon Whitlock at Young Wood for an introduction to the fascinating world of spiders. You'll be catching spiders on the woodland rides and glades, identifying and learning about their lives. The July 19th event run from 10am to 1pm.

Entry to both events is free - email gavin@nerochewoodlanders.org for more information.

Got a story?

Email blackdowns@viewnews.co.uk



■ **SAMPFORD Arundel Garden Club visit to The Engine House**

Garden club visits former train station

THE Engine House, home to Samantha and Kevin Anning, was the destination for Sampford Arundel Gardening Club's May visit May.

The striking house was converted by its previous owner from the former GWR Venn Cross railway station, and the four-acre garden contains many memorabilia of its former existence.

Kevin and Samantha, who bought the property in 2000, showed us a number of photographs illustrating what the abandoned station and goods yard looked like before the conversion.

Over the 17 years they have been there,

Samantha and Kevin have created a garden of year-round interest, merging formal and less formal with the surrounding landscape.

The informal areas consisted of a one-acre area of wildflower meadow (unfortunately the group planned their visit too early in the early in the year to see the prolific orchids) and woodland paths.

Formal beds containing candelabra primulas, a number of herbaceous borders and raised vegetable beds were in distinct contrast.

Interspersed throughout were streams and ponds, including one full of goldfish and Koi carp, as well as standing stones and scul-

tures.

The visit, undertaken in pleasant evening sunshine following a showery day, was finished off with lively conversation over a welcome hot drink, and a look at the owners' pet tortoises.

For those of you who do not know Venn Cross, it is about four miles west of Wiveliscombe on the Bampton road.

The next Arundel Gardening Club is in the Parish Room on July 13th where members will be learning more about Hostas.

For more information about the club, please phone Debbie on 01823 662957 or Sue on 01823 672662.

Nathan's marathon in a month

NATHAN Hall, who goes to school in Membury, has just completed an amazing challenge he set himself – to complete a fundraising 'marathon in a month' for the charity Bibic.

Nathan lives with dyspraxia – a disorder which effects co-ordination and movement – makes this feat even more impressive.

Cheered on by family, friends, supporters and the charity's mascot, eight-year old Nathan celebrated his last marathon mile by finishing his challenge at Bibic's HQ in Langport, Somerset.

This is an incredible achievement for Nathan, who finds sports activities difficult due to his dyspraxia.

Inspired by watching the London Marathon, Nathan decided to set himself the goal of running a 'marathon in a month' to raise money for Bibic.

Nathan said: "Bibic helps children like me who find learning difficult, and I wanted to do something for others like me."

"I came here when I was little and it really helped me and my family."

During this last month, Nathan has covered 31 miles, taking part in parkruns, fun runs and family runs across Devon

with the support of many



■ **NATHAN Hall (centre) holds the cheque with mum Julie far right**

friends and family by his side.

Juliet Hall, Nathan's mum, said: "We are so proud of Nathan. He came up with this idea all my himself as he wanted to give something back to Bibic who helped him and his brother when he was a child."

"It's been lovely to see how much Nathan has enjoyed this whole experience and how much more confident he is at running – something he really didn't like before."

"It's great to see him believe in himself; he now says he can, not he can't."

"And the donations are

still coming in, it's amazing – I think he will raise more than £700!"

Bibic CEO Lynda Williams commented said: "Thank you Nathan for raising all this money for us and well done on your fantastic running."

"It was great fun to celebrate your last mile here at Bibic."

Bibic is a small charity that works with children and young people with neurological and genetic conditions that cause developmental difficulties, affecting their social, physical, communication and learning abilities.

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Spectacular display of blooms at

THANKS to the Friends of St Mary's – who organised the Hem-yock parish church flower festival – there was a spectacular display of arrangements on show to celebrate St Mary's 750th anniversary.

Titled 'Celebration', a group of flower arrangers – under co-ordinator Monica Smith – brought various special celebrations from baptisms to Wimbledon to life.

Friends co-ordinator Patricia Fuller came across the service sheet from the 700th anniversary by chance. It was brought to the attention of the church council and from there the seed grew as members realised this was a year to celebrate.

Pots of flowers on the church gates led visitors along the main path which was lined with tubs of a variety of flowers grown by church members, with children from the primary school contributing flowering decorated wellington boots, whilst the two decorated milk churns at the church glazed door reminded visitors that this was a rural area.

The colour scheme of pink, blue and mauve with flowers ranging from lilies to foxgloves was carried through from here to inside the porch.

A perfectly formed tiered arrangement of golden roses and carnations, along with the glittering figures '750' and golden cloth wel-

comed hundreds of visitors to the hugely successful exhibition as they entered the church – the furthest coming from Australia, South Africa and Cambodia.

The font was decorated in white with touches of pink and blue, along with christening robes depicting baptism, whilst weddings and anniversaries saw glorious arrangements varying from a dark red 6ft high pyramid pedestal to yellow roses and lillies and a white lateral display for silver – as well as earlier anniversaries showing paper, wood, tin and china.

The chancel was particularly attractive as it was adorned for 'An Invitation to a Wedding'.

The soft apricot roses and cream carnations, a wedding dress and bridesmaid dress along with a hat, shoes and other wedding paraphernalia and a garland completed a beautiful display that encompassed the entire area.

The church's harvest festival saw a window filled with a wheel, cider jug and corn, as well as a selection of flowers, fruit and vegetables, along with bread and a harvest mouse set on sackings.

Easter was a pedestal of pale yellow blooms with decorated Christmas trees depicting the December festival.

Other displays included HM The Queen's reign in flowers of red, white and blue with a photo and Union flags; the National Garden

Scheme's 90th year of raising money for charities was a miniature gate, flowers, ferns and foliage as well as a teapot; a tennis racket, trainers and a delightful miniature tennis court and balls along with photos celebrating Virginia Wade winning Wimbledon ladies final 40 years ago mingled with flowers of red, white and blue; a Celebration of Light consisted of candles and yellow flowers; pillars were festooned with garlands; the blue and gold Mothers Union banner complimented their matching colour arrangement and various smaller displays sponsored by those celebrating birthdays during the year were around the church.

Hemyock Primary School pupils had constructed a delightful garden theme of origami flowers and tree decoration which adorned the Children's Corner along with a teddy bears picnic whilst a 4x3ft sepia photo of St Mary's set off a matching dried arrangement to depict the churches 750 years with bright coloured flowers decorating the gallery.

The most striking arrangement was a large blue and white display of lupins, peonies, cleamatis, aran lilies, delphiniums, canterbury bells, agapanthus and dried palm leaves to represent the church's Patron Saint the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Throughout the festival delicious

cakes and drinks were available in the church with three course lunches served at the Church Room.

The Sunday morning service was led by the Lay team with Rev David Burton.

Local ringers rang a quarter peal prior to the festival closing with a Songs of Praise taken by Rev John Stone.

A presentation was made to Monica Smith and warmest thanks were expressed to her husband

Stewart whose constant help throughout the four days had been invaluable.

It is hoped the majority of displays will remain in the church for a week or more and the building will be open from 9am to 5pm.



■ ORGANISERS Sue Lambert, Janet Dalton, Monica Smith (flowers co-ordinator), Brenda Calcraft, Jenny Doble, Ron White and Patricia Fuller (Friends co-ordinator)



Blackdown Woodland Ramblings

by John Greenshields

OUR poor old native Ash trees are under attack by several bugs and diseases on is the Asian longhorn beetle (ALB), *Anoplophora glabripennis*, is a native of China and the Korean peninsula, and poses a serious threat to a wide range of broadleaved trees.

It has caused extensive damage to trees in the USA and Italy since being accidentally introduced there in recent years, and there have been outbreaks in several other European Union countries.

The beetles tend to stay close to the site of original infestation in the early stages of an outbreak. However, they can fly more than two km.

Analysis of climate data suggests that most of England and Wales and some warmer coastal areas of Scotland are suitable for

beetle establishment, but south-east England and the south coast are at greatest risk.

The lifecycle from egg to beetle is one to two years in parts of Asia, and possibly as long as four years in the UK.

Beetles emerge during the summer and will mate and lay eggs, after which they die.

Because it is often the resulting emergence holes that are the earliest evidence of an outbreak, it is important to survey and monitor the surrounding area to ensure the adults have not already spread to neighbouring host trees.

Another, apart from Chalarid is the Emerald ash borer (EAB, *Agilus planipennis*) is an exotic beetle pest.

It is a member of the beetle family Buprestidae, and causes significant damage to ash trees (*Fraxinus* species). A native of

eastern Asia, it was accidentally introduced into North America, probably in the 1990s, and most likely in imported wooden packing material.

Ash trees have been widely planted in urban situations there, and are economically important as a commercial timber crop.

The death of many ash trees, within two to three years of first showing signs of ill health, is causing considerable concern.

On a brighter note as a WT creation Volunteer I am very happy with this Autumn's proposed planting in the Blackdowns so far we have got 7 ha in all and another possible 5ha.

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Hemyock church's flower festival



JANE Atlee with her display



MONICA Smith's wedding display in the chancel



THE baptism display by Margaret Allen



THE 750 Golden Welcome by Monica Smith

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Blackdown Transition Group

by Neil Arnold

A bit more than apple pressing and seed swaps

A PERSONAL question but do you: 1) Rent your home?; 2) Lease your car?; 3) Make monthly payments to buy your washing machine and television?

The old way of doing things was to buy your home, purchase a car outright and to buy consumer goods such as refrigerators, washing machines and home electronics.

A problem with the non 'bricks and mortar' side of consumption is that when it is superseded by something better, you end up binning these items and they become scrap or worse landfill.

So what about a better way of doing things?

An enterprising lady called

Isla Roundtree has come up with a concept of recycling children's bicycles.

Her company is called Islabikes (find out more at islabikes.co.uk)

As I understand it, she will rent a bike out until that item is either worn out or no longer fit for purpose (due to outgrowing this size).

The reasoning for this is that Islabikes will be responsible for that bike and will, upon its return to the factory recycle the whole of the bike's components into rebuilding them into a 'new' one.

As raw materials may become scarce and expensive, this will change the way that manufacturers deal with the

public.

Just imagine if we changed the way we did business with the manufacturers of cars, washing machines and other white goods and consumer electronics.

Much would depend upon these manufacturers designing their products for easy repair, reasonable monthly costs and ultimately recycling of all component parts.

The Islabikes website is well worth a visit and you should watch her three minute video for inspiration.

So what are you waiting for?!

NEIL ARNOLD

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Smeatharpe WI

THE ladies of Smeatharpe WI were entertained at their June meeting by Paul Thomas, landlord of The York Inn in Churchinford, who gave a talk on his life as an officer of the Metropolitan Police.

Some of his anecdotes were thought-provoking, and others very funny.

He also told us a little more about the coast-to-coast charity cycle ride that he's organising on the September 10th, and we look forward to helping support the riders on the day.

The next meeting will be at Smeatharpe Village Hall on Thursday, July 6th at 7.30 pm, when

Sagara Vijara will be giving a talk on Forest Gardening.

The competition will be for the best garden in a saucer.

Visitors are always welcome at a cost of £4. Contact Virginia Roach on 01823 601489 for further details or see www.smeatharpewi.weebly.com

Sampford Arundel WI

A NEW member and two dual members were welcomed at Sampford Arundel WI's June meeting, where artist Emma Duke brought tales of shipwrecks, storms, winds and rain, when she showed pieces of driftwood, and told how they had been formed.

The Bristol Channel is a very interesting seaway, and leads to what was once the busiest port in the world.

It has very varied tides, with a dangerous seabed, and erosion over many hundreds of years from land and rocks on the seabed has led to these fascinating natural sculptures.

The Quantocks and Exmoor provide the initial source of the wood, but there are under water forests as well.

Margaret Kent reported on the National AGM, where both resolu-

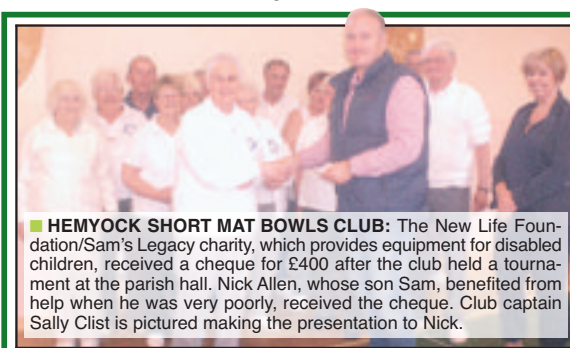
tions were passed, but not with overwhelming majorities.

Lots on, as usual: invitations to group meetings and other WIs' activities, then our own meal out; art, book, craft 'n' laugh groups; and the new whist class.

Other events are the forthcoming

village fete – cakes and items please for the show on July 22nd.

Very important, also, is the open parish council meeting on July 4th from 7.30pm, at which the threatened closure of the village hall will be discussed – suggestions for a new venue are welcomed.



■ **HEMYOCK SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB:** The New Life Foundation/Sam's Legacy charity, which provides equipment for disabled children, received a cheque for £400 after the club held a tournament at the parish hall. Nick Allen, whose son Sam, benefited from help when he was very poorly, received the cheque. Club captain Sally Clist is pictured making the presentation to Nick.



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Blackdown Hills Marquee at the Honiton Show

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The Blackdown Hills Marquee at the Honiton Show on Thursday 3rd August

THE BLACKDOWN Hills Business Association will once again be hosting their infamous Blackdown Hills Marquee, sponsored by Gigaclear. Come along and meet the wonderful array of local craftsmen and women, food and drink producers, artisans, hand-made gifts, specialist nurseries, talented musicians and professional businesses, giving you a unique experience of the talent in the Blackdown Hills.

Come and enjoy a fun packed day with interactive

games, activities, competitions as well as hands on experience with rural crafts and skills. There will be a range of local craftsmen and women running children's activities and demonstrations throughout the day. This will include the Blackdown Hills Hedge Association demonstrating techniques as well as providing details of events and courses run by their organisation.

We are proud to showcase businesses including, Gigaclear, Blackdown Hills AONB, Ferne Animal Sanctuary, Perrie Hale Nursery, Honiton Council, Colystock Kitchens, Kings Cycles, Eco Green Energy, Common Loaf Bakery, Wallaces of Hemyock, Lentells Accountants, Dulford Nurseries, Valley Pest Control, Blackdown Hills Lavender, Savanna Dell Rimes, Southdown Duvets, Simply Naturals, David Ball Furniture Restoration, Cosmic, William Young Piano Restoration and the Candlelight Inn plus many more!

Enter the Blackdown Hills Interactive competition on the day to win a whole range of super prizes www.blackdownhillsinteractive.org.uk.

We look forward to seeing you there whatever the weather!



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The Blackdown Hills Marquee

At the Honiton Show

Thursday 3rd August 2017

You will find us in the lower field between the West of England Hound Show and Vintage Tractors



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 Business Association**

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Gigaclear is proud to once again be sponsoring the Blackdown Hills Honiton Show on 3rd August, where Gigaclear representatives will be attending to discussing broadband with residents.

For more information visit www.gigaclear.com.

Blackdown Hills Marquee at the Honiton Show

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Cosmic – Your local digital experts

THE Honiton based digital support agency, Cosmic, have continued to grow over the years and now offer more services and solutions than ever before. Their team of technical IT support experts are ready and able to offer your business the help it needs to get moving and stay working. Offering a range of packaged solu-

tions – ranging from basic needs to fully managed contracts - Cosmic Assist IT support services can be deployed within your organisation to ensure that it remains secure and fully operational at all times. Fully trained, local, friendly and ethical technicians can support you both onsite and remotely. As one of the UK's leading social enterprises, Cosmic have a vision to address the issues of digital inclusion across the South West region. They aim to provide training, services and solutions to those communities that need it most. Through website design, IT support, consultancy, training and project delivery, Cosmic work to support organisations and individuals in all aspects of digital technology. Get in touch with Cosmic to find out how they can support you.



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Give your antique furniture a treat



▲ Before



▲ After

IN THE heart of the Blackdowns is an artisan who specialises in the restoration of antique furniture. David Ball, of David Ball Furniture Restoration, has restored over 1500 pieces of furniture for his 450 customers.

"People entrust me with their family heirlooms, often of great sentimental value, and they like the idea of putting them in the care of a good local restorer," he said. A good example is the before and after photo of an unusual settle made from cherry wood grown in Hemycok nearly 200 years ago.

He undertakes restoration for private individuals and, at local auctions, will search for particular pieces to buy and restore for customers and for resale. His services include free verbal estimates, and antique furniture restoration using traditional methods and materials throughout. This covers veneering, French polishing, staining, waxing, fittings and glues, as well as cane, rush and seagrass seating.

"I love my work, and my aim is to make sure that your experience as my customer is good enough for you to recommend me to others," said David.

If you have antique furniture that is bent, blistered, broken or cracked; dirty, scratched, scuffed, split, stained, twisted, warped, wobbly or worm-eaten; or even has bits missing, bodged repairs (7 nails & screws in one joint is the record so far!), lifted veneer or loose joints, then David would welcome the opportunity to restore it for you.

For further information please contact David Ball on: 01823 680607 / 07962 401408 or email dc132@btinternet.com or see his website at www.dbr.co.uk

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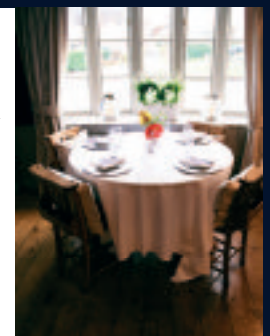
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The Honiton & District Agricultural Association hold their 127th show on Thursday, 3rd August 2017

THE Grand Parade is one of the many highlights of the main ring activities where the day's livestock winners proudly parade. The 2017 main ring will be a hive of activity; fantastic acts including Bold-dog Lings Freestyle Motocross Team, Honda's official and the UK's number one motorcycle display Team. "The Sheep Show" is back with its humorous, educational, live stage show all about sheep, 9 breeds will be present and not to miss is the sheep shearing and their "dancing sheep"! Honiton are extremely excited to welcome Joseph's Amazing Camels to the Main Ring, the camels and jockeys are specially trained by Joseph and Rebecca Fossett and wear fantastically colourful Arabian style outfits to add pizzazz! As well as racing, the camels are on display all day so the public can meet these marvellous animals and learn more about them. We also have the amazing Ridgeside Lurcher Display, the lurchers race at full speed chasing an electric lure, a fast, action-packed demonstration with an informative and humorous commentary by Phill

Gibbons. The highlight is a race between the lurchers and a hawk, a fantastic and exhilarating spectacle, not to be missed! The public are also invited to have a go with their own dogs – whatever their breed! A very exciting attraction is making a flying visit to Honiton – two thrilling aerobatic displays performed by Viper Aerobatics flying a beautiful Pitts aeroplane.

The lower field incorporates all that is countryside with hurdle making, ferret racing, a blacksmiths guild and a trip down memory lane with a vintage tractor section with nearly 100 vehicles on display. Honiton plays host to the West of England Hound Show, a show within a show, which attracts a huge following countryside. There is the wonderful dog show comprising both pedigree and fun classes for the pet pooch. We have entertainment in abundance for children with Professor Twistopher's Punch and Judy, as seen on the hugely popular and wildly acclaimed television series Downton Abbey or maybe a donkey ride will interest. With over 400 trade

stands, including the new home and craft marquee, shopping and a fabulous food hall there really is something for everyone. We have a huge and diverse range of food courts to tickle your taste buds with local caterers offering the very best produce; why not start with a delicious bacon roll, enjoy lunch with a Dartmoor Farmer's Beef Burger from Kenniford Farm and tickle your taste buds with the award winning and local delicious Otter Valley Dairy Ice-Cream. Honiton prides itself on being a truly traditional agricultural show with a unique atmosphere it brings new and traditional agriculture together so make a note in the diary, 3rd August, we all look forward to welcoming you. Don't forget accompanied under 16's are free. Advance tickets are just £14.50 for a whole day of entertainment. For further details on the show, trade enquires, schedules or details on becoming a member of the Association with all its benefits please contact the secretary on 01404 41794 follow us on twitter @honitonshow1890.



THE 127th HONITON AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Thursday 3rd August 2017

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Festivals & Shows

in and around the Blackdown Hills

MELPLASH AGRICULTURAL SHOW

24 August 2017 8am – 6pm
The one day show not to be missed!

THE show has farming and agriculture at the heart; it gives everyone who attends the chance to enjoy the riches of rural life by the sea. For those that are not familiar with farming it provides a rare and excellent opportunity to find out what is involved, and to trace food from field to plate!

The finest cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, donkeys, horses, as well as farm produce, rural crafts, horticulture and handicrafts from the local area are on show. For the youngsters, there is a packed programme of hands-on activities in the Discover Farming and Farmers for the Future marquees.

There is a full programme of special attractions in the Toolstation main ring including show-stopping performances by the Stampede Stunt Company. Together with their exceptionally trained Spanish horses you can expect a spectacular show meticulously choreographed to provide breath-taking, hilarious family entertainment that is simply unforgettable.

All the favourites are back too, including the popular countryside arena where spectators can watch gun dogs, hawk displays, ferret racing and even get their own dog involved in the terrier racing.

With over 300 trade stands, 2 indoor craft marquees, a fun fair and the magnificent food hall

with cookery theatre visitors of all ages are guaranteed a full days entertainment, and will be spoilt for choice.

All children and teenagers 16 years and under can attend the Show for free. Substantial savings on admission can be made by buying tickets in advance - buy on-line or from local venues. There is a free bus throughout the day from Lyme Regis stopping at bus stops in Charmouth, Chideock and Bridport, a free park and ride on the Burton Road and also free parking off the A35.

Up to date details and tickets are available on-line at www.melplashshow.co.uk or follow us on Facebook or Twitter



▲ Alan McNamee Image Photography

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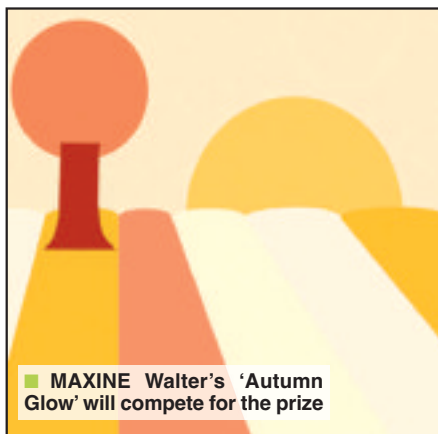
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what's on in and around the Blackdown Hills

Evolver Prize comes to Honiton



■ MAXINE Walter's 'Autumn Glow' will compete for the prize

THG (Thelma Hulbert Gallery) Honiton is hosting the prestigious Evolver Prize 2017 this July and August.

Artists, photographers and designers compete annually to have their work featured on the front cover of the July/August edition of *Evolver*, the Wessex Arts and Culture guide.

To celebrate the 100th edition of *Evolver*, this year the prize money has increased to £1,000 and the exhibition will feature 100 artworks, instead of the usual 50, including the win-

ning artwork and 99 runners up.

The entrants have been judged by Simon Barber (editor of *Evolver*), Angela Blackwell (THG curator), Stewart Geddes (president, Royal West of England Academy) and Suzy Rushbrook (curator, Dorset Visual Arts).

There is a broad spectrum of cover artworks in different media, all of which are for sale.

Visitors are also encouraged to vote for their favourite cover to win the Visitors' Choice Prize to be announced at the end of the exhibition.

The exhibition at THG is supported by sponsor Bearnas, Hampton and Littlewood auctioneers and provides a unique platform to showcase the work of

Wessex-based artists.

Angela Blackwell said: "We love hosting the Evolver Prize!

"It is great to have 100 artworks for the first time. There is an amazing diversity of artworks considering they all have the same dimensions.

"This is such a popular exhibition with our visitors as they get the chance to vote for their favourite cover too."

● **EVOLVER PRIZE 2017** (July 8th – August 26th) – open Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10am to 5pm.

Free admission, donations welcome.

■ MARK Somerville's 'Bananas' will also challenge for the honour



Angersleigh Church Fair

A TRADITIONAL village fete will be held at Angersleigh on Saturday, July 29th. The fete will include lots of stalls, teas, music, children's entertainments, donkey rides and more. Admission is free, and the fete begins at 2.30pm.

Advertiser's Announcement

"If you go down to the woods today...."

Well on the 1st July....there will be lots of surprises at The Teddy Bears Picnic at The Folly Nursery in Dalwood!



THE PICNIC is particularly important this year as you may well be aware the government is increasing the hours of childcare available to some families from 15 up to 30 hours.

Parents of 3 and 4 year olds who want to take advantage of the extra 15 hours of childcare need to discover if they are eligible first. If they are eligible they need to give their chosen provider their 11 digit code to register.

Staff at The Folly Nursery will be on hand at the Teddy Bears Picnic to help parents with this process as their children take part in the activities available on the day.

We have limited spaces left for September, so do come and see what we are all about and register any interest with us then.

All families with under-fives welcome.



The Folly Nursery and Pre-School in Dalwood, invites you to our ..

Teddy Bears' Picnic

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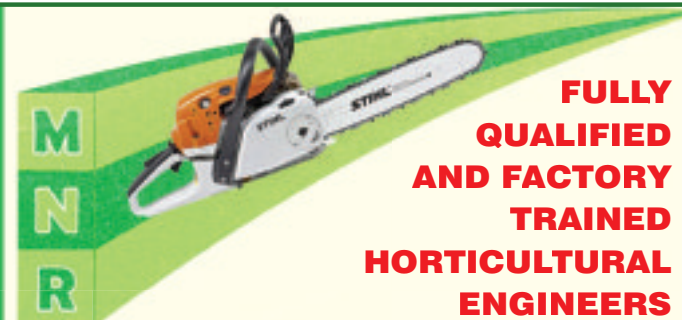
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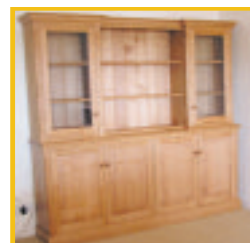
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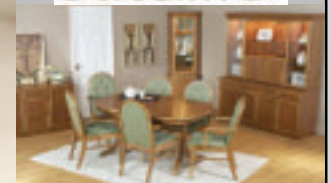
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CHANGING THE WAY WE SELL CARPETS

When Bests began selling carpets 49 years ago all stores employed their own fitters, today nearly all good fitters are self-employed, they prefer to measure and estimate for their own installations, that way they can go through the job with the consumer and they know what the installation involves before they arrive to fit the flooring. The rise of the internet has seen the price of carpets become far more competitive, Bests being members of a large carpet buying group and purchasing at favourable prices see the new direction for Bests and selling carpets being:

PRICES AS LOW AS SOME INTERNET SITES BUT THE LEVEL OF SERVICE YOU EXPECT FROM A SHOWROOM.

We can supply you with the name of a skilled Carpet or vinyl fitter if you would like a recommendation, who can price for the work and tell you your exact carpet or vinyl requirements that we can then order, if you have your own fitter already just call in with your sizes and let us give you an estimate. We will be supplying quality carpets direct from the manufacturer, not roll ends remnants or seconds, giving you the maximum choice at the best prices.

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING BUYING CARPETS GIVE US A CALL, YOU MAY BE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED.

We anticipate an increase in carpet and vinyl sales because our prices have been reduced substantially, if you are a SKILLED fitter and have capacity for additional work we would like to hear from you.

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